

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, EAIR, CVIS UR US
SUBJECT: NEW POSITION IN US FOR CIVIL AVIATION MINISTRY
OFFICIAL

REFS: A. MOSCOW 7295, B. MOSCOW 6813, C. MOSCOW 7245

SUMMARY: V. D. SAMORUKHOV TOLD US THAT HIS APPOINTMENT AS AEROFLOT NORTH AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE STEMS FROM MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION'S WISH TO HAVE OWN REPRESENTATIVE IN THE US TO DEAL WITH BILATERAL CIVAIR PROBLEMS. THE MINISTRY ALLEGEDLY FEELS USG HAS "MOVED" THESE RELATIONS TO THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL LEVEL. HIS SUCCESSOR HERE HAS NOT YET BEEN NAMED, BUT SAMORUKHOV CONFIRMED THAT CURRENT AEROFLOT REPRESENTATIVE SHTEFAN WILL BE RETURNPXXG TO USSR. WE NOTE THAT SAMORUKHOV, AS SOVIET GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL, WILL BE TRAVELING ON DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT BUT WILL BE OCCUPYING AN ANOMALOUS POSITION WHICH IS PART COMMERCIAL AND PART OFFICIAL. AS SUCH HIS STATUS IN US AND RELATIONSHIP TO SOVIET EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON SEEM IN NEED OF DEFINITION. END SUMMARY.

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1. V. D. SAMORUKHOV, NEWLY DESIGNATED AEROFLOT NORTH AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE, TOLD E/C COUNSELOR AND EMBOFF AT LUNCH ON JUNE 1 THAT HE WAS BEING SENT TO NEW YORK AS "SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE" OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION BECAUSE PAN AM AND AEROFLOT CAN NO LONGER RESOLVE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS. THE US SIDE IS CONSTANTLY RAISING THESE PROBLEMS TO THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL LEVEL, HE COMPLAINED, AND THE

MINISTRY FELT IT WAS NECESSARY TO HAVE ITS OWN MAN IN THE US TO DEAL WITH THE DEPARTMENT AND CAB. SHTEFAN, PRESENTLY AEROFLOT GENERAL MANAGER, IS QUALIFIED TO HANDLE THE INTER-AIRLINE MATTERS BUT NOT THE BILATERAL ISSUES. SHTEFAN WILL BE RETURNING TO THE USSR.

2. WHEN ASKED IF HIS APPOINTMENT MEANT HE ASSUMED HE WOULD BE IN REGULAR CONTACT WITH THE DEPARTMENT, SAMORUKHOV INDICATED THIS WAS HIS EXPECTATION. HE DISMISSED THE IDEA, HOWEVER, THAT ALL BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WOULD NOW BE IN THE US AND HE SAID HE EXPECTED INTER-GOVERNMENTAL TALKS WOULD STILL BE HELD PERIODICALLY IN MOSCOW AND WASHINGTON.

3. SAMORUKHOV REPEATED THE STANDARD SOVIET PLOY THAT THE TWO AIRLINES SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO SETTLE THEIR PROBLEMS. HE ARGUED MILDLY THAT IT WAS THE DEPARTMENT AND CAB WHO WERE HOLDING UP PROGRESS. WHILE SAMORUKHOV INDICATED NO CHANGES IN POSITION, HE MENTIONED A NEED FOR A SOLUTION SOON TO OUR PROBLEMS. HE DID NOT, HOWEVER, SUGGEST WHEN BILATERAL TALKS MIGHT RESUME AND LEFT INFERENCE THAT IT WAS THE LOCAL PAN AM REP, NOT HIMSELF, WHO HAD ESTIMATED THAT TALKS COULD RESUME IN JUNE-JULY (REF A).

4. IN HIS NEW POSITION, SAMORUKHOV WILL ALSO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MEXICO. HE EXPECTS TO VISIT MEXICO CITY VERY SHORTLY FOR THE OPENING OF AEROFLOT AIR SERVICE BETWEEN THE USSR AND MEXICO, VIA HAVANA. THIS WILL ALL TAKE PLACE BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE IN JUNE FOR THE US. HE ALSO SAID, ALBEIT JOKINGLY, THAT HE EXPECTS TO BE BACK IN THE USSR IN TIME LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR THE 1980 OLYMPICS.

5. COMMENT: IT IS NOT YET CLEAR TO US HOW SAMORUKHOV INTENDS TO OPERATE IN HIS NEW CAPACITY AND PRECISELY WHAT HIS STATUS WILL BE. IT WILL BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTING TO OBSERVE HIS INTERFACE WITH SOVIET EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. THERE IS ALSO THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE UPGRADING OF THE SHTEFAN POSITION INTO A QUASI-OFFICIAL FUNCTION SHOULD BE REVIEWED BY THE DEPARTMENT AND WHETHER WE OUGHT TO ASK FOR AN APPROPRIATE QUID PRO QUO AT SOME POINT. THE MOTIVATION OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION IN DESIGNATING HIM AS ITS NORTH AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE DOES SUGGEST A FAIRLY HIGH PRIORITY IS BEING GIVEN TO RESOLVING OUR BILATERAL PROBLEMS. IT MAY BE THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE REACHED CONCLUSION THAT PRESSURE ON USG THROUGH PAN AMERICAN IS NOT SUFFICIENTLY EFFECTIVE TO ACHIEVE SOVIET GOALS. SAMORUKHOV KNOWS THE AMERICAN SCENE WELL AND PRESUMABLY WILL TRY TO DEVELOP AS MUCH SUPPORT AND UNDERSTANDING AS HE CAN AMONG AMERICAN INTEREST GROUPS IN HOPE OF STRENGTHENING SOVIET

BARGAINING POSITION.

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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